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REMARKS

Applicant has considered the outstanding official action. Applicant submits that the claims are directed to patentable subject matter and are in condition for allowance.

The sole rejection is of claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,934,930 (Camps) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,683,789 (Sheynis).

The claimed invention is directed to a cable connector having a housing made up of at least two components, a first component and a second component which are movable in relation to each other to come into contact with each other about an axis of rotation for electrically conducting connection. The first component is adapted to receive conductors of at least one round cable and the second component is adapted to receive a flat cable. The connector also includes a closing lever coupled at a distance from the axis of rotation with the first component. The closing lever includes a closing claw which is engagable with a stationary cam on the second component in such a way that the at least first component and second component move in a direction of closing contact to contact each other for reciprocal closing when the lever is actuated and to press

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the cutting tips into the conductors of the flat cable thereby connecting the flat cable and the round cable together upon actuation of the closing lever. Support for the amendment to claim 4 is present in the specification at page 4, second full paragraph, and the abstract. The structure of the closing lever of the invention provides, upon actuation of the lever, for the essentially automatic connection of two cables, i.e., without special exertion of force by a user.

The Examiner acknowledges at page 3, lines 3-8 of the outstanding official action that Camps does not disclose a closing lever which is coupled at a distance from the axis of rotation with the first component, the closing lever including a closing claw which is engagable with a stationary cam on the second component in such a way that the at least first component and second component move in a direction of closing to contact each other when the closing lever is actuated. The Examiner relies on Sheynis to provide for the shortcomings of Camps. Applicant respectfully submits, however, that Sheynis does not make up for the shortcomings of Camps. Sheynis does not disclose a closing lever for a cable connector, in particular with a closing claw and which upon actuation will press cutting

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tips into conductors of a cable to connect two cables together.

More particularly, Sheynis discloses an electronic control module composed of a housing 30, printed circuit board 40 and a rigidizer 50. The housing includes an opening or window 34 and shroud 36. A removable connector 22 is aligned with the shroud and is retained in place by a latching mechanism 35 having a set of pins 37 which slide into slots 24 on a latch 26 positioned on the connector 22. Accordingly, latch 26 upon actuation simply retains connector 22 in place around shroud 36 on housing 30. The latch as taught by Sheynis, therefore, does not include a closing claw engagable with a cam so as to move a first component and second component into contact for reciprocal closing and to press cutting tips into conductors of a cable to connect two cables together upon actuation of the closing lever. Accordingly, Sheynis does not teach a closing lever according to applicant's invention. Further, no suggestion is provided in Sheynis or Camps to modify either the module with latch of Sheynis or the interconnection of Camps so as to provide the claimed invention in the absence of applicant's own teaching.

Thus, the claims are not rendered obvious within

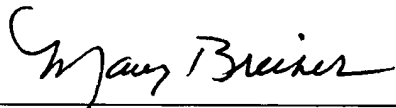
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the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §103. Withdrawal of the §103  
rejection is therefore requested.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is  
thus respectfully urged.

Respectfully submitted,

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